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Inside the Twin Cities' dwindling **SCIENTOLOGY MOVEMENT**

DRINK In good spirits p. 15

A-LIST A *Harry Potter* party at Ground Zero p. 19

MUSIC The return of Annie Mack p. 33

James and the Giant Peach

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HOBBIES: Boxing and hiking

HIDDEN TALENT: I'm good at baseball and skiing. I'm also great at guessing when my food is ready before the timer goes off.

WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU: I'm a diehard Minnesotan and Uptown person. Patio season is the best.

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST / GROUP: Wu Tang Clan, Sublime, and local hip hop

IF YOU HAD UNLIMITED MONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH YOURSELF: Keep adopting dogs

WHAT IS YOUR ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN FOR: Strong drinks and good music

WHAT'S THE WORST DATE YOU EVER WITNESSED: A Christian Mingle meetup. They barely spoke and looked like they were going to cry.

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE SEEN FROM BEHIND THE BAR: I watched someone coat check a bottle before going into the bar.

STRANGEST DRINK REQUEST: Gin with energy drink

BEST DRINK TO CALM SOMEONE DOWN: Coffee

BEST HANGOVER CURE: Ginger beer and french fries

BARTENDER
OF THE WEEK
→

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2018 NCAA MEN'S FROZEN FOUR



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THE SHORTLIST



ADAM IVERSON

THE STAT SHEET

What another Tim Pawlenty governorship might look like, by the numbers:

\$6.2 billion

Deficit Pawlenty left behind when he departed the office eight years ago

50%

Increase in the number of Minnesotans without health insurance during his reign

\$1.9 billion

Amount he cut from education funding to help stop the budget bleeding

\$2.2 million

Pawlenty's average salary as a Wall Street bank lobbyist since he left office

"Now the aroma of fresh bread wafting over the streets all night long from behind locked doors is the smell of social injustice."

Reader Kesha Green responds to "Minnesota's king of hunger relief faces revolt in his bread factory," at citypages.com.

WEIRD SCIENCE

GOV. MARK DAYTON wants to curtail the use of farm fertilizer to stem rising pollution, which has left many of southwest Minnesota's lakes too toxic for fishing or swimming. But he must convince a Republican-dominated Legislature, to whom science is suspect.

The most comical objection comes from Rep. Jeff Backer (R-Browns Valley), who blames the desecration on... goose poop. A University of Minnesota study found that it accounted for just 0.1 percent of the nitrogen in state waters.

Dayton must be happy that he has but a year left to go in office. Imagine how frustrating your job would be if you had co-workers like Jeff Backer.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Minneapolis is North America's
3RD MOST EXPENSIVE CITY,
says The Economist

How **DON LUCIA** killed
the Minnesota Gophers'
hockey dynasty

Graffiti artists
take revenge on **UPTOWN H&M**
over ad campaign

New York Post's
Brian Costello slams
Vikings QB **KIRK COUSINS**
for choosing Minnesota

Minnesota's
KING OF HUNGER RELIEF
faces revolt in his bread factory

DRIVING WHILE MEXICAN

A Coon Rapids arrest raises issues of constitutional rights

Myriam Parada was driving a carload of kids home after a birthday party in Coon Rapids when she was rear-ended by a white woman. Officer Nicolas Oman arrived at the scene.

The woman who caused the accident—and had racked up a dozen previous driving convictions—was allowed to leave, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Parada, who legally arrived in the U.S. from Mexico as child, was not.

She didn't have a driver's license, so she offered a Mexican Consular card, which listed her name, address, and date of birth, along with a photo. That wasn't enough for Oman, who took her to the Anoka County Jail because he was "unable to positively identify her."

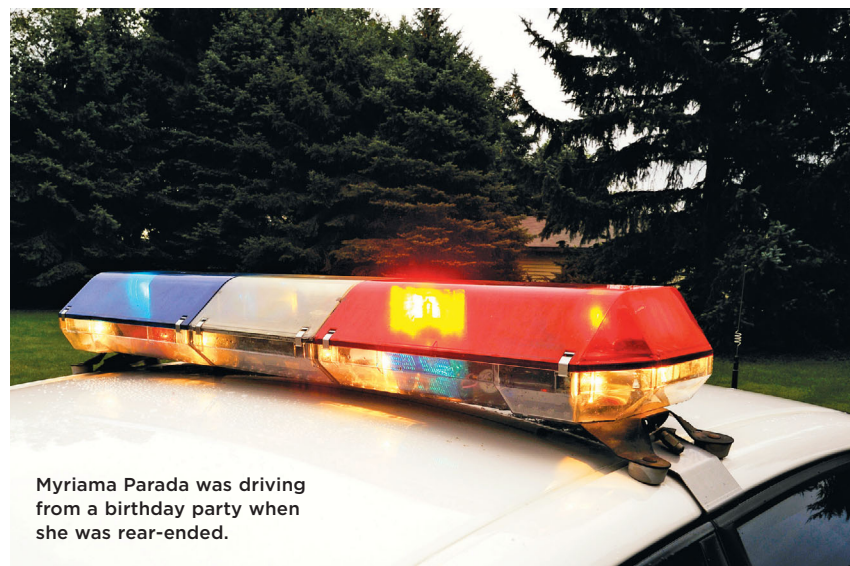
This wasn't Oman's normal practice, the ACLU asserts. He'd cited six other

drivers for the same offense over the previous 12 months. None were arrested.

The ACLU claims Parada was cleared to leave jail that same day, but was held nonetheless "based on her nationality and suspected immigration status." She was twice interviewed by Immigration agents, who questioned her citizenship. Parada asked if she needed a lawyer, she says, but was told by an ICE official that "it goes faster without a lawyer."

Sometime after 2 a.m. the following morning, Parada was removed from her cell, handcuffed by ICE agents, and transported to Sherburne County Jail. Her family later bonded her out, but she now faces a deportation proceeding—all because another driver hit her car while she drove relatives home from a birthday party.

The ACLU has sued on her behalf, citing the Coon Rapids PD for her arrest,



Myriama Parada was driving from a birthday party when she was rear-ended.

BSAUTER

and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office for detaining her after she was due to be released. Parada was only held out of an "organizational animus toward immigrants," the lawsuit alleges.

Anoka officials "illegally deprived [Parada] of her liberty by refusing to release her until after ICE officials could come

and take her," the lawsuit states, violating her constitutional rights. She is seeking upward of \$375,000 in damages, plus release for herself and others preventing law enforcement agencies from "wrongfully detaining and imprisoning persons based upon their nationality or suspected immigration status." —MIKE MULLEN

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Music for Good Friday @ 7:30 pm

Easter Saturday, 3.31
The Great Vigil of Easter @ 7:30 pm

Easter Day, 4.01
Holy Eucharist @ 8 am & 10:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt & Treats @ 9:30am
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IF YOU BUILD IT, *They Still Won't Come*

INSIDE THE TWIN CITIES' DWINDLING SCIENTOLOGY MOVEMENT

On the corner of Wabasha and 10th streets, a large 'S' accompanied by two sideways triangles leers at the downtown traffic. Underneath, bold letters spell out "Church of Scientology" on one of the prime locations in St. Paul.

When it housed the Science Museum of Minnesota, this 82,000-square-foot building served a public purpose. Today, as the biggest Scientology building in the Midwest, it's largely empty.

On a Sunday morning, I count four people inside, apart from two friends with whom I've come for a tour. The unfilled rooms are notable, considering Scientology holds Sunday services.

In the early 1990s, I attended kindergarten in this building while my elementary school was being constructed. Today, the building has the ambience of an upscale mall. Classrooms where kids once learned natural science have been replaced with training rooms where committed Scientologists

learn to administer the religion's brand of psychotherapy known as auditing.

The lobby outside the old Omnitheater is stale brown, a stark contrast to the purple and pink hues that greeted me as an eager child. At age 5, entering this theater was like entering the Colosseum. Today, it's still giant, though a flat, rectangular IMAX screen looks like it's been hastily placed in front of the old domed one. Below, a podium with an eight-pointed Scientology cross sits next to a bronze bust of L. Ron Hubbard, the 20th-century pulp sci-fi writer who founded the religion.

The room is dark and empty.

A promotional video describes this building, known in church parlance as an "ideal organization," as "nothing short of grand," a "landmark all unto itself." The best word I can summon is "hollow." This point isn't lost on Eric Rapp, the broker who sold the building to Scientology in the mid-2000s.

"I go by there all the time and I rarely see anything going on," he says. "I dunno."

By Joey Peters

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- 05/05 MITIS W/ PARTY NAILS & PRXZM
- 05/12 UZ W/ STOOKI SOUND
- 05/12 OLAMIDE
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COURTESY OF CHRIS SHELTON

It wasn't supposed to be this way. In 2011, four years after they purchased the building for \$3.5 million and committed another \$2.5 million to renovations, Scientologists held a grand opening. They closed off the intersection and got David Miscavige, the enigmatic "ecclesiastical leader of the Scientology religion," to preside over the event.

Former St. Paul Councilman Dave Thune bragged about reading his "dog-eared" copy of Hubbard's "The Way to Happiness" pamphlet. State Rep. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) told a cheering crowd that she planned to use church materials on human rights in her classroom at Metro State University, where she's an adjunct instructor.

But in the seven and a half years since, Scientology's public image is more toxic than ever. A renaissance of critical media has surfaced through countless tell-all memoirs, the acclaimed book and HBO documentary *Going Clear*, and the popular A&E series *Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath*.

Though Scientology is often ridiculed for its seemingly out-there beliefs—most notably in tracing the origin of human suffering to the tale of an evil alien overlord named Xenu who wrought galactic genocide 75 million years ago—the church's true horror stories revolve around accusations of siphoning money from followers through endless course fees and donations, as well as "disconnecting" them from contact with family and friends deemed problematic to the church.

Today, anyone can read tales of tragedy from ex-members on the internet. The pure volume has some predicting doom for the church.

"It's already dead," says Chris Shelton, an ex-Scientologist who spent 27 years in the church and helped with the building's grand opening that day. "They just don't know it."

Scientology is "already dead," says former member Chris Shelton. "They just don't know it."

"Money-making scam." These words, Shelton contends, are the key to understanding why

Scientology bought a large property in downtown St. Paul that's never fully used.

"If you think about Scientology in any other terms, you're going to be very confused, because the things that they do don't make any damn sense," Shelton says.

The St. Paul building is one of nearly 60 "ideal orgs" around the globe. All share similar rates of vacancy, according to news outlets like BuzzFeed and the Village Voice. Mike Rinder, who once served as head of the church's legal and public relations arm, has called Scientology's ideal org campaign a real estate scam.

Before the local Scientology branch bought the St. Paul building, it worked out of a storefront on Nicollet Mall that ex-members describe as decrepit, with ripped carpet and a bad heating system.

"It was run-down. It needed so much work," says Suzanne W., a former Scientologist who was active in the 2000s. (She doesn't want her last name used, fearing retaliation from the church). "They really struggled just paying utilities on that building."

Under these circumstances, buying a larger, more expensive building didn't make sense. But starting in 2003, Miscavige launched a campaign to encourage branches across the globe to buy historic buildings and convert them into megachurches. Growing interest in the religion demanded it, the church claimed.

But ex-Scientologists say it was the other way around. The grand structures were supposed to replenish flagging membership. "The philosophy is if you build it, they will come," Shelton says. Shelby LaFreniere, who grew up in Excelsior and spent



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

her youth in Scientology before ultimately leaving at age 19, says members were made to believe that the St. Paul building would reverse the church's fortunes.

"If you had this new building, it would naturally bring in people," she says. "People would see it and they would be curious about what this wonderful thing is, and they'd just be drawn to Scientology."

To buy it, leaders focused downward on the pockets of members. As a fundraising staffer, LaFreniere says superiors trained her to ask for donations from members by encouraging them to open new credit cards.

"I was told there's always money," she says.

Sources of it included her grandparents, who remortgaged their house. They also included her mother, Natalie Webster, who donated roughly \$100,000 over the years with her ex-husband.

Webster recalls being at a fundraiser hosted at the Minneapolis Convention Center, where staffers literally blocked the doors with tables so members couldn't leave without donating.

"Parishioners were giving up their IRAs, their kids' college funds, maxing out their credit cards—it didn't matter," Webster says.

Suzanne W. and her husband spent tens of thousands of dollars on coursework and donations. When she was short of money, church staffers gave her a list of credit card companies with whom she could open new accounts. "They would sit on the phone with you and try to get your credit card limit raised," Suzanne says. "Or they would watch you on the phone applying for new credit cards so you could get new money to pay for the stuff."

Penny Rose Mixhau says her now-deceased husband once gave \$17,000. "I was at fundraising events," Mixhau says. "I saw people pledge \$1 million or half a million."

(After repeated interview requests, Twin Cities Scientology replied, "We do not

Shelby LaFreniere says the church has but a few dozen members in the five-state region.

debate our religion with anti-Scientologists such as those you are using in your article and thus will not be participating in your story.")

Title documents list the Minnesota Church of Scientology as owner of the St. Paul building. But former members contend the international church, headquartered in Los Angeles, calls the shots for how money is raised and spent.

"We never saw any invoices, never any accounting, never any breakdown of what all the money was going for," Shelton says. "You had no accountability, no transparency. So you have a potential there for a great advantage being taken of all these local churches by international."

The church pays no property taxes on the St. Paul building. As a religion, Scientology has been tax-exempt since 1993.

On a tour, my group is taken into a public film room by polite staffers and shown introductory videos outlining some basic concepts of Scientology.

We learn how the human mind has two sides—one analytical and one reactive. Eliminating your reactive mind gets you to the "clear" level, a major state in Scientology's "Bridge to Total Freedom" pathway to enlightenment.

This idea is one of many outlined in *Dianetics*, Hubbard's famous self-help tome that served as his foray into creating Scientology. Glossy copies of the book are perched on shelves all over the building, selling for \$25.

Another video focuses on the plight of the modern worker. We watch as a hard-working man burns the midnight oil at the office to advance his career, only to see his efforts go unrewarded. Instead, the

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boss's lazy son and the man who knows how to play office politics get promotions.

This vicious cycle of instability in work life disables us, the narrator explains. We can overcome this ordered chaos only by learning the tools of Scientology, which means the knowledge of life.

Basic concepts like these, while exuding an unmistakably dark undertone, can be easy to relate to.

Suzanne's conversion in 2000 began with her enrollment in "very simple, very basic low-cost courses" that taught "pretty common-sense" principles.

"That's kind of how they pull you in, and you become friends with these people

Workdays typically last from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week, and include three daily roll calls where Sea Org members must line up on command. Their tasks can be anything from working a dining hall to making international financial decisions.

In her early 20s, Webster was raped by a non-Scientologist. Sea Org officials instructed her not to go to the police, she says, since it would bring bad PR. A common refrain from ex-Scientologists is that the church taught them to blame themselves when problems occurred because they weren't applying the teachings correctly.

"I WAS SO BROKEN BY THEN THAT I AGREED TO ANYTHING."

and you think you're part of this group," she says.

LaFreniere recalls a communication course at age 7. She and an adult would sit in chairs facing each other. The first exercise consisted of learning how to sit comfortably in front of someone with her eyes closed. The next exercise taught the same thing with her eyes open.

The process progressed to learning how to get your words across to the other person effectively, then learning to acknowledge the other person's communication back to you.

LaFreniere acknowledges that some of these lessons are useful. "But somebody, anybody, could have told you those skills," she says.

The deeper a Scientologist studies, the more rigid the rules become. As members progress in their auditing, they're asked questions in one-on-one therapy-like sessions to locate the roots of their "spiritual distress." They're encouraged to report problematic behavior by other members, such as looking up information about Scientology from outside sources.

Webster compares the indoctrination to boiling a frog slowly so it doesn't recognize the danger until it's too late.

"Nobody gets into an abusive relationship and has the shit beat out of them on the first night," she says. "It's at first words, then it's a push and a shove."

Webster joined the church at the age of 5 after her mother married a Scientologist. By her teen years, she was convinced the religion was the best way to save mankind. She left high school to join the Sea Organization, a paramilitary group of sorts that Hubbard called the "aristocracy of Scientology." Sea Org members sign a one-billion-year contract, wear military-style uniforms, and are granted room and board in exchange for highly disciplined work.

"They told me, at the end of the day, I must have done something to make it happen," Webster says. "They never wanted the authorities on the premises, and never wanted a Scientologist, let alone a Sea Org member, involved with the authorities."

But the traumatic incident would turn into an opportunity. After seven years in Sea Org, she'd become worn down by the lifestyle. The church agreed to release her in exchange for her silence about the rape, she says. But Webster would have to say she was leaving because she cheated on her then-husband.

"I was so broken by then that I agreed to anything," she says. "It was easier to me to have people think I was a slut than have them know I was assaulted."

The Twin Cities church has cited its regional membership at 10,000. Former members say that's an amalgamation of everyone who's ever bought a Scientology book, took a personality test, or stopped by the church out of curiosity and wrote their name down on a visitors list.

After the church bought the St. Paul building in 2007, Shelton was sent from California to shore up local membership.

He was a ranking member of the Sea Org, where he'd spent 17 years. The church gave him a list of "950 people who were supposedly Scientologists" in a five-state region that included the Dakotas, Iowa, and Wisconsin. His task was to make sure they were still involved. If they weren't, he would work to regain them.

Shelton soon found that most had barely any connection at all. One, who was listed as a trained auditor, had merely bought a copy of *Dianetics* at a flea market once.

"That's how goofy the church's records are," Shelton says.



COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

In the end, he could find only 100-150 legitimate members in the entire five-state area.

Suzanne recalls only seeing about 20 people consistently taking classes during her 10 years with the church. "But they kept telling us there were thousands."

LaFreniere says that outside of big events, only 25-30 people showed up regularly, and most of them were on staff.

Shelton's parents were Scientologists, though he didn't join till age 15 when—as an awkward, nerdy teenager—an attractive recruiter promised that he could improve his communication skills.

"It wasn't for years that I realized what she was telling me she could have told any high schooler," Shelton says. "Oh, you have a hard time talking to girls. Oh, you have a hard time getting dates." I fell perfectly for that, because they said, "We have a class that will handle that for you."

Taking the courses didn't necessarily get him more dates, but they did make him feel better about himself. Soon, he too felt the church was the best cure for worldly ills. It promised emancipation from all troubles, a goal that Shelton chased until the very end.

After one achieves the "clear" level on the Bridge to Total Freedom, they can begin what are called the "Operating Thetan" or OT levels. There are eight of them, promising Scientologists full awareness and eventual freedom from their physical bodies. This can include superpowers like telekinesis and freedom from physical ailments. "Thetan" was Hubbard's word for spiritual body or soul.

Only the most committed reach these heights, which cost tens of thousands of dollars to obtain. They include paying for individual courses as well as countless auditing sessions at \$800 an hour.

Natalie Webster says staff members would lock the doors to keep people from leaving before they donated.

In the early 2000s, Webster rose to the third level, where she was introduced to Xenu.

The Xenu story, made infamous by a 2005 episode of *South Park*, revolves around the alien overlord's attempt to resolve an overpopulation problem in the 76-planet confederacy that he ruled over. Xenu plotted genocide, rounding up billions of his own people into giant spaceships.

He launched them off to Earth, depositing them into volcanoes near Hawaii and Las Palmas. Xenu's minions then dropped hydrogen bombs on the volcanoes to ensure their deaths.

The thetans of these beings ascended from their dead bodies, but an atmospheric forcefield rerouted them to large cinemas for rounds of forced indoctrination, à la *A Clockwork Orange*. There, the thetans were implanted with the false ideas that make up other religions, such as the desire for a good career, a family, and a house with a white-picket fence.

These brainwashed souls wandered Earth for millions of years. Soon, clusters of them inhabited human bodies. They're the real cause of human suffering, Scientologists are told, and must be exorcised through OT training.

Webster read the Xenu story from copies in Hubbard's handwriting. The material is so confidential that it came in a binder that she had to plug into a security system.

"We were told over and over again that if you're exposed to this material before you're ready for it, you can get pneumonia and die," she says.

Until then, her training had focused on exposing her past trauma. "Now you're sitting here and you're telling me that I have

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the souls of people from another planet physically attached to me?" she says. "And they're the ones that have the negative thoughts and whatnot that I experience?"

On one hand, she reasoned that the Xenu story was no more fantastical than the story of Christ, who was born of a virgin and rose from the dead. Besides, the training made her feel good about herself.

It required her to go to California and get plenty of rest, away from the daily stresses of home life and raising three kids.

"I'm working on myself, I'm talking about issues that plagued me, how do I not feel better?" she says. "Had I gone to a spa or a one-month vacation, I may have gotten the same results."

She also began to increasingly notice Scientology's focus on money.

"The demands for money and the expectation as a parishioner that you were going to give everything you have, that wasn't enough," she says. "They actually physically wanted you there, making calls, getting people to the fundraisers. To this day, even fundraising for my kids' schools turns me off."

When the I-35W bridge collapsed, Webster volunteered for the Red Cross. In 2008, she competed in the Mrs. Minnesota pageant. She also started writing a column for a community newspaper that took her beyond her comfort zone.

"More and more, I started to see the world around me was not what I was led to believe since my childhood," she says.

Her growing sense of unease was compounded by her daughter LaFreniere's disastrous two weeks in the Sea Org a few years before. The teen called one night overwhelmed, crying, and wanting to come home. Church officials argued that she couldn't leave, since she'd just signed a billion-year contract of service.

The man in charge of new recruits told Webster that "this has nothing to do with you. This is between Shelby and the Sea Org."

"And I said, 'Shelby is 14 years old, this has everything to do with me. I am her mother. She cannot legally be there without me saying she can,'" Webster says. The Sea Org eventually relented.

Webster started secretly reading internet message boards populated by ex-Scientists.

"I learned to clear my browser," she says. "I made sure no one was home. I mean, you'd think I was looking at porn or something."

Scientology calls media material critical of the church "black PR." Getting caught reading it can put members' abilities to obtain the OT levels in jeopardy, forcing them to retrain in courses and that could cost them tens of thousands of dollars more.

Webster's secret internet surfing ran for nearly two years before she revealed her doubts to her then-husband. Both were ready to leave the church.

LaFreniere was devastated. A staff member offered her a place to stay after her parents' defection. She declined. But with her parents no longer subsidizing her Scientology training, she was forced to find work, and began to realize that non-members could live happy lives.

"I was really confused when people would say, 'Good morning' every day," she says. "You didn't greet people (in Scientology) unless they were your senior."

Shelton's exit began with leaving the Sea Org in order to do the OT levels. The church became enraged when he moved back to Minnesota to be near a Scientologist with whom he had begun a relationship. He too began surfing the internet, reading of staff beatings and leaked materials.

He was fascinated. And devastated.

"I had realized it was all a scam, that I had been taken advantage of for 27 years of my life, that it was a total fucking waste," he says. "I haven't really found a word in a thesaurus to describe what that feels like. I just don't have it."

Today, Shelton lives in Denver, delivering weekly YouTube videos that deconstruct Scientology and other cult-like thinking. He also authored *Scientology: A to Xenu*, a critical primer explaining how the church operates.

Both Shelton and Webster say Scientology has declared them "suppressive persons," or enemies of the church.

Suzanne left after the church gave her an ultimatum: Stop being friends with Webster or leave.

"I'm like, 'You're making this real easy,'" she says. "I guess I'm done."

LaFreniere discovered she too had been labeled suppressive after leaving the church. She visited the St. Paul building and was barred from a tour.

Outside, LaFreniere caught up with an old friend selling church books. As they talked, Karen, the woman who once offered LaFreniere a place to stay when her family defected, yelled at them from across the street.

"She said, 'You need to back away!'" LaFreniere says.

Like anyone who has walked or driven past the building, LaFreniere also noticed the absence of people inside.

"I cannot imagine, if I had finished training and came back all excited to disseminate Scientology to the world, and then nobody comes in," she says. "I would feel personally responsible, honestly."

Ex-members emphasize that Scientists are in it because they're trying to do good for others. Anyone, they argue, can unwittingly fall into similar life traps. Sometimes it's drugs and alcohol. Sometimes it's abusive relationships. Sometimes it's blind allegiance to partisan politics. And sometimes it's Scientology.

Says Webster: "Everybody has their cult." ☐

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CROOKED WATER'S STRAIGHT-UP SUCCESS

The woman-owned distillery winning awards and taking over liquor store shelves, all without a space of its own

BY STACY BROOKS

Crooked Water Spirits doesn't have a cocktail room. It doesn't even have its own distillery space, partnering instead with a Wisconsin company to produce a line of bourbons, gins, and vodkas.

And yet, this Minnesota micro-distillery has garnered international awards, shelf space at dozens of liquor stores across the metro—and a spot on cocktail menus at Cafe Alma and the Saint Paul Hotel.

That's thanks to founder and CEO Heather Manley's lean startup mentality, sure—but also her commitment to crafting the finest small-batch spirits anywhere.

"I don't want to recreate the wheel," Manley says. "I want to elevate it."

Manley's foray into craft spirits began with a sip of Gamle Ode's Minnesota-made dill aquavit. She was instantly struck by the difference between micro and macro spirits, comparing it to the difference between a strawberry or tomato that you grow in your own garden versus those on grocery store shelves.

Intrigued by the potential of craft spirits, she started considering the possibilities. A Scotch enthusiast, she noticed that her favorites were port-cask-finished—but this was a time in which there was only one such American version on the market,

and it was made in the South. Identifying a niche for a locally produced product, she partnered with Madison's Yahara Bay Distillers in 2013 to produce her Kings Point bourbon, which is aged in port casks sourced from a winery in Portugal's Douro Valley.

Crooked Water Spirits launched in September 2014. And when the initial batch of about a half-dozen barrels sold out within a week, Manley realized that she had a viable business on her hands.

Throughout 2015 and 2016, Crooked Water's line expanded to include clear spirits that don't require

aging: Sundog, a bright, citrus-forward American-style gin; Abyss, a Navy-strength London dry gin; and Simple, a premium vodka. Last year

saw the launch of Old Hell Roaring, a double-barreled bourbon; Minneapple, an apple brandy; and Manley's, a ready-to-pour Old Fashioned.

Manley's background in tech—she's the president and CEO of On-Demand Group, an IT consulting firm—explains Crooked Water Spirits' startup-style approach. The partnership with Yahara Bay Distillers means Crooked Water can take more risks, since there isn't a mortgage on a distillery space to pay or investors to satisfy.

There's also a freedom to focus on qual-



Heather Manley

ALMA GUZMAN

ity. When it comes to Minneapple brandy, Manley explains, "The spirit dictates when I release it... I'm not driven by profit—I'm driven by making something I'm proud of, and [that] is different in the marketplace." It means the Honeycrisp apple brandy has time to age in three barrels: First bourbon casks, then port casks, and finally, French oak.

Crooked Water Spirits' three pillars of business are innovation, quality, and excellence. More than just talking points, that trio informs every aspect of the distillery's spirits—and nowhere is that more apparent than in Manley's, that ready-to-pour Old Fashioned. While plenty of premade

cocktails start with high aspirations, tradeoffs in quality can creep into the actual execution. Simple syrup gets swapped in for demerara; a subpar base spirit is used in lieu of something premium; additives and preservatives get tossed into the mix.

In contrast, Manley says that Crooked Water's ready-to-pour Old Fashioneds are the same cocktails she makes at home—just mixed by the 200-gallon bin. She buys premium bitters by the jug, the base spirit is the distillery's signature bourbon, and she goes so far as to contract with someone to make the demerara, as it isn't commercially available in bulk. "I'm not trying to make a ready-to-pour cocktail for \$19.99

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DRINK

a bottle," she says. "I can't stand behind a cheap shot."

Another unique Crooked Water offering is L'Eau Grand, a French oak-aged vodka that straddles the line between clear and brown spirits. Like Kings Point bourbon and the ready-to-pour Old Fashioned, it was inspired by a gap in the market: While distillers were producing plenty of aged gin, no one was doing an aged vodka. Manley got to work, experimenting at home by adding pieces of American and French oak to bottles of vodka to see which worked better. She settled on the French version, citing a depth of flavor and thick mouthfeel that American oak didn't provide. With a rich caramel color that comes exclusively from the vodka's time aging in wood, she considers L'Eau Grand a gateway to introduce vodka drinkers to brown spirits. And at the same time, it challenges the preconceptions of whiskey lovers who think they hate vodka. "It's an educational spirit," she explains. "[It] teaches the beauty of what wood does to [a] spirit."

In addition to these distinctive drinks, Crooked Water stands out in the craft spirits scene as a woman-owned company—one of just two woman-owned distilleries in the Twin Cities. It's a stark gender gap that isn't specific to Minneapolis and St. Paul. Crooked Water Spirits is the first spirits company in the U.S. to be certified as woman-owned by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

Manley views her position as a strength, pointing out that it's exciting to stand out as one of the relatively few women in the industry. And she's excited about the craft spirits movement as a whole, which she feels is all about learning and trying new things. "Keep your mind open, and let the spirits dictate your experience.... There are so many beautiful products in Minnesota, and nationally the craft movement is insane." She points out that as the movement matures, it's no longer enough for a product to simply be local—it also has to meet (or exceed) consumer expectations about taste and quality.

What's next for Crooked Water? "This year is go time," Manley says. Today, her spirits are distributed in Minnesota and California, but an expansion to Arizona, Florida, and Wisconsin is underway, with distribution to New York coming this fall.

Eventually, Manley wants Crooked Water spirits to be available in every state. "But quality, innovation, and experience won't be sacrificed," she says, pointing out that craft spirits can never compete with mass-market spirits on pricing.

"We have to compete on quality and innovation," she adds. "How can we take it to 11?"

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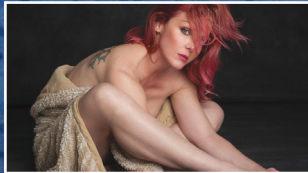
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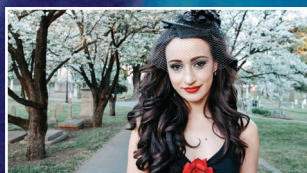
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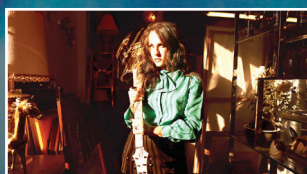


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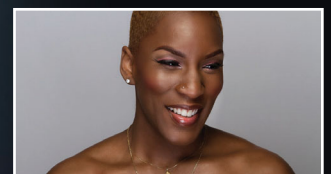
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DAVID CROWE

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David Crowe returns to the Acme this week, where he plans to record

a special. His current set is inspired by his eight-year-old daughter. "The show is a collection of crazy, weird, and uncomfortable coming-of-age stories," he explains, "as told by a father who is worried about giving his child the tools to maybe do a better job heading into the world than he did." The tales Crowe tells span the globe. Some take place in Russia and in the United Arab Emirates, and there are many from the U.S. "I did a rough draft of the show for some people, and it got very positive feedback," he says. Some even told Crowe it was helpful. "That's the last thing I thought standup comedy could do," he laughs. 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18.

708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THURSDAY 3.29

FILM

MINNEAPOLIS HITCHCOCK FESTIVAL

HEIGHTS AND RIVERVIEW THEATERS

The Minneapolis Hitchcock Festival returns with a mix of esteemed classics and lesser-seen curiosities. Heights Theater kicks things off with the original *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1934), wherein Peter Lorre portrays the ringleader of a squad of assassins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ►

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89.3 THE CURRENT AND CITY PAGES PRESENTS
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FT. ROBERT FINLEY, SHANNON SHAW
WITH SHANNON AND THE CLAMS
TUE APR 03
PALACE THEATRE \$35+ / 7PM DOORS / 18+

THU APR 19 L7
WITH DEATH VALLEY GIRLS
FIRST AVENUE \$25 / 7PM DOORS / 18+

UP NEXT FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM

BEST CONCERT (LOCAL), BEST CLUB DJ, BEST CONCERT VENUE (READER'S CHOICE)
BEST PEOPLE WATCHING, BEST PLACE TO MAKE OUT - CITY PAGES 2017

MAR 28
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
AN EVENING WITH YO LA TENGO

MAR 30
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
JEREMY MESSERSMITH
WITH MONICA LAPLANTE

MAR 31
89.3 THE CURRENT, ELECTRIC FETUS
AND SURLY BREWING PRESENT
TRANSMISSION: THE '80s
A NIGHT OF POP/ROCK/
NEW WAVE/HIP-HOP/R&B
FT. DJ JAKE RUDH

APR 03
PHILLIP PHILLIPS:
THE MAGNETIC TOUR
WITH THE BALLROOM THIEVES

APR 05
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
MARGARET GLASPY
WITH BUCK MEEK

APR 07
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
TY SEGALL
WITH THE BED BAND

APR 08
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
BUILT TO SPILL
WITH RITUALS OF MINE,
BLACK BELT EAGLE SCOUT

APR 11
THE WOOD BROTHERS
WITH NICKI BLUHM

APR 14
MARGO PRICE
NOWHERE FAST TOUR
WITH BLACKFOOT GYPSIES

APR 15
CIGARETTES
AFTER SEX

APR 16
MATT AND KIM
WITH TOKYO POLICE CLUB

APR 17
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
HOUNDMOUTH
WITH FREDERICK THE YOUNGER

APR 20
SKIZZY MARS
WITH OLIVER TREE

APR 21
EROTIC CITY
FT. LENKA PARIS, DJ
SHANNON BLOWTORCH,
DJ ESPADA, ROY FREEDOM
AND DJ SMITTY

APR 22
BABY YOU'RE A STAR
A KIDS DANCE PARTY
FT. DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION),
DJ SMITTY

APR 23
CITY PAGES PRESENTS
WAXAHATCHEE
AND HURRAY FOR
THE RIFF RAFF
WITH BEDOUINE

APR 24
RAINBOW KITTEN
SURPRISE
THE FRIEND, LOVE, FREEFALL TOUR
WITH CAAMP

APR 28
FOREVER YOUNG PRESENTS
BUMP N GRIND:
PROM EDITION

APR 29
PANDA BEAR
WITH GEOLOGIST

APR 30
GEORGE EZRA
WITH NOAH KAHAN

MAY 04
UNKNOWN MORTAL
ORCHESTRA
WITH MAKENESS

MAY 05
GEAR DADDIES

MAY 06
CITY PAGES PRESENTS
FLIP PHONE
SUPERSTAR DRAG CONTEST
HOSTED BY MICHELLE VISAGE
(RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE)

MAY 07
PETER HOOK
& THE LIGHT
WITH DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION)

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UP NEXT PALACE THEATRE

BEST CONCERT VENUE
- CITY PAGES 2017

MAY 06
DR. DOG
CRITICAL EQUATION TOUR
W/ SON LITTLE

MAY 16
MARIAN HILL
W/ MICHL

MAY 17
LAKE STREET DIVE
W/ LIZ VICE

AUG 01
**BEN HARPER &
CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE**

AUG 11
PUNCH BROTHERS
W/ MADISON CUNNINGHAM

AUG 17
BEACH HOUSE

UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

ACID DAD
W/ FRANCE CAMP, GO FOR RETRO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

L.A. SALAMI
W/ CAT CLYDE
THURSDAY, MARCH 29

OUGHT
W/ FLASHER
FRIDAY, MARCH 30

YAMANTAKA//SONIC TITAN
W/ ANOTHER HEAVEN, HASTINGS 3000
SUNDAY, APRIL 1

**COURTNEY MARIE
ANDREWS**
W/ MOLLY PARDEN
MONDAY, APRIL 2

**GUYTANO,
LOVE SEQUENCE, AND
MARIAH MERCEDES**
THURSDAY, APRIL 5

VUNDABAR
W/ RATBOYS, SLOW PULP
FRIDAY, APRIL 6

NAP EYES
W/ SHE-DEVILS
SATURDAY, APRIL 7

UP NEXT TURF CLUB

BEST MUSIC RESIDENCY, BEST JUKEBOX
- CITY PAGES 2017

CINDY WILSON (OF THE B-52'S)
W/ OLIVIA JEAN, EASTER ISLAND,
DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

LAILA BIALI
W/ 26 BATSI, MARIA AND THE COINS
THURSDAY, MARCH 29

DYLAN LEBLANC
W/ THE ARTISANALS
FRIDAY, MARCH 30

THE LOW ANTHEM
W/ HALEY HEYNDEKX
SATURDAY, MARCH 31

THE SOFT MOON
W/ BOY HARSHER, DJ GRANT
MAYLAND (DARK ENERGY)
MONDAY, APRIL 2

THE GO! TEAM
W/ BASEMENT REVOLVER
TUESDAY, APRIL 3

THE 4ONTHEFLOOR
W/ VANDOLIERS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

BIRDS OF CHICAGO
W/ THEM COULEE BOYS
THURSDAY, APRIL 5

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES

OF MONTREAL
W/ MEGA BOG
THE CEDAR
TUESDAY, APRIL 3

S. CAREY
W/ GORDI
THE CEDAR
SATURDAY, APRIL 7

BATHS
W/ NO JOY, SASAMI ASHWORTH
FINE LINE
SATURDAY, APRIL 7

TAUK
SHAPESHIFTER TOUR
W/ PHO
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, APRIL 12

WILD CHILD
EXPECTATIONS TOUR
W/ THE WILD REEDS
THE CEDAR
FRIDAY, APRIL 13

LOVETT OR LEAVE IT
STATE THEATRE
FINE LINE
SATURDAY, APRIL 14

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LEON BRIDGES
WITH KHUANGBIN
PALACE THEATRE
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A-LIST



Dyani White Hawk moderates a talk about Native art.

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

Screwball comedy *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* (1941), a true anomaly in Hitchcock's filmography, centers on a quarreling couple who discover their marriage may be invalid. Attraction gets wickedly twisted with *Vertigo* (1958), when a private eye becomes obsessed with his enigmatic subject. Over at Riverview Theater, voyeuristic thrills take a deadly turn when a man witnesses a possible murder in *Rear Window* (1954). Suspicions of foul play similarly drive the man-on-the-run action of *North by Northwest* (1959), lend psychological gravitas to the moral quandary of *I Confess* (1953), and demonstrate the lighter side of corpse disposal in *The Trouble with Harry* (1955). Ending the series with espionage, *Notorious* (1946) charts a torrid love triangle between a reluctant spy, her contact, and a Nazi collaborator, and *Foreign Correspondent* (1940) follows a reporter into enemy territory to uncover an ominous plot. Find the full schedule at www.trylon.org. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through April 12 at Heights. 7 p.m. Mondays April 16 through May 21 at Riverview Theater. \$10-\$12. Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-729-7369. Heights Theater, 3951 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights; 763-789-4992. **Through May 21 —BRAD RICHASON**

TALK

NATIVE ARTS PANEL DISCUSSION

WALKER ART CENTER

Is it possible that First Nations artists are, at long last, not only having their

"moment," but also experiencing recognition for their perspectives? Not to mention their aesthetic and critical practices? This panel is clearly a step toward that. Following in the wake of the Walker Art Center's installation of Sam Durant's *Scaffold*, and the significant protests that spurred dismantling both at the site and in online forums, a panel has been organized to further that discourse. They'll delve deeper into issues of how critics and consumers view Native arts, the role of activism in the arts, and surviving in the 21st century amid continuing misappropriation and marginalization. Panelists include Dyani White Hawk, Nicholas Galanin, Candice Hopkins, Steven Loft, and Ashley Holland. 7 p.m. Free. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

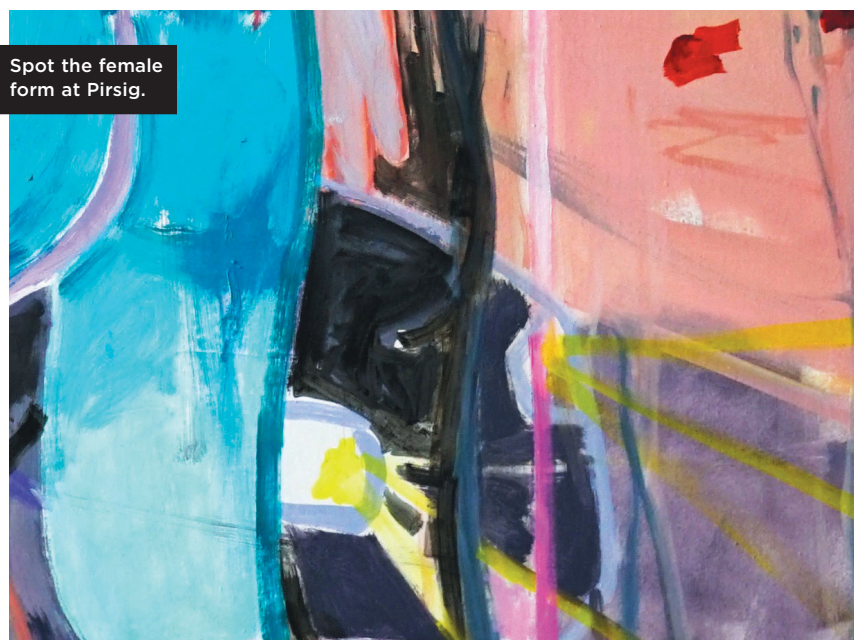
ART/GALLERY

ARTISTS IN THE KITCHEN

TEXTILE CENTER

Textiles and taste come together in this unique exhibition, where 50 local female artists were paired with female chefs and restaurateurs for collaboration. Teams include Alicia Hinze (the Buttered Tin) and Amy Rice, Tracy Singleton (Birchwood Café) and Ruthann Godollei, Anne Rucker (Bogart's Doughnut Co.) and Alanna Stapleton, Barb Zapzalka (Pumphouse Creamery) and Asia Ward, and Brenda Langton (Spoonriver Restaurant) with Shelly Mosman. Together, these ladies met, ate, discussed, and shared their experiences in their chosen fields. Results include beet-dyed fabrics,

Spot the female form at Pirsig.



JUSTINE DI FIORE

layers of materials that resemble tiramisu, and abstract representations of delicious dishes. There will be a public reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29, and an artists' panel talk at noon on Thursday, April 26. Free. 3000 University Ave., Minneapolis; 612-436-0464. **Through May 19 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

FRIDAY 3.30

DANCE

SHAPIRO & SMITH DANCE

THE COWLES CENTER FOR DANCE & THE PERFORMING ARTS

Company director Joanie Smith approaches dramatic content with droll humor and an unwavering commitment to what makes the personal universal. Her new work "Later That Night" is a duet for Andrew Lester and the divinely gifted Laura Selle Virtucio, and delivers an emotional chain reaction reminiscent of the flapping of a butterfly's wing in Beijing setting off a hurricane in Texas. In "Hands," her splendid company explores the emotive power of those expressive appendages, mining wit and wisdom. A welcome reprise of Smith's iconic "Bolero" invests Ravel's famous score with Wonder Woman-style athleticism and valor. The all-female cast careens through shifting group dynamics, suggesting at one moment Amazonian warriors, at another refugees cast adrift in an anarchic world. Smith brings on the guys for "A Naked Man's Shirt," a trio in which Lester, Scott Mettille, and Stephen Schroeder go all macho power-trip over, yes, a manshirt. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$29. 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-206-3636.

Through Saturday —LINDA SHAPIRO

PARTY

POTTERHEADS UNITE

GROUND ZERO NIGHTCLUB

This Friday, Ground Zero invites mega-fans and casual readers of *Harry Potter* alike to come together for drinks and dancing. Grab your wand and put on your house colors. Or dress up as your favorite character from the series, be it a nearly headless ghost, a noseless villain, a fussy owl, or a marauder. The night will feature wizards mingling and toasting to the series with booze, and the dance floor will spin tunes from the '80s through the '00s. 21+. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$5 for Potterheads in costume/\$10 for muggles. 15 Fourth St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-378-5115. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART/GALLERY

JUSTINE DI FIORE: MAGIC CARPET

PIRSIG PROJECTS

In the hands of Justine Di Fiore, the female form becomes a catalyst for luminous abstract expression, full of striking gestures and feminist awareness. Rebelling against the centuries-long male-gaze tradition, Di Fiore's take on figurative work is authoritative and powerful. Her solo show, "Magic Carpet," opens this weekend in south Minneapolis' Pirsig Projects. The storefront gallery, run by artist Sean Smuda, is found at Lake and Chicago, just around the corner from his previous space, Shoebox Gallery, which was housed at the now-closed Robert's Shoes. You can see Di Fiore's work in the main gallery on Lake Street, and in the adjacent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►

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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

alleyway, named “Biennale Beinalley.” Her work is also currently on view in Soo Visual Art Center’s “Untitled 14.” An indoor opening reception will take place on Friday, March 30, from 7 to 10 p.m. 734 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. **Through May 14 —SHEILA REGAN**

SATURDAY 3.31

DRAG

BEBE ZAHARA BENET’S ROAR

MERCY

Before Trixie Mattel, Sharon Needles, and Bob the Drag Queen took home gold (and cash, wigs, and makeup) from *RuPaul’s Drag Race*, BeBe Zahara Benet was there first. The Cameroon-born queen immigrated to the U.S. for school and to be closer to her family. Benet’s first break came in Minneapolis, where she took the stage in drag at the Gay 90’s. Since winning *Drag Race*, Benet has released a few dance hits, and funds are currently being raised on Kickstarter to release *BEING BEBE: The BeBe Zahara Benet Documentary*, a project that has been in the works for 12 years. Tonight at Mercy, Benet is back in town to host a party featuring world music, dancing,

and drag. She’ll be sharing the stage with Genevieve Ramona Love and Julia Starr. 21+. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. \$17.89. 901 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-252-7000. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

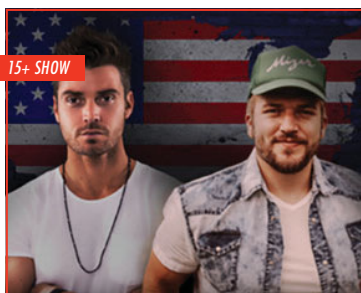
THEATER

THE WOLVES

JUNGLE THEATER

While *The Wolves* revolves around a youth soccer team of nine girls, the action resides almost entirely in off-field dialogue. Uncannily recreating the conversations of adolescence, the play ushers audiences into the candid circle of a pregame warm-up ritual, where the squad members debate urgent matters. Rejecting the archetypes of sports dramas, these girls are recognizably human in their concerns, breathlessly arguing topics that range from trivial (*Harry Potter*) to heavy (war crimes). Through these talks, each character grows more fully realized, each with a distinct persona that starkly contrasts with the anonymity of their uniforms. Performed by an ensemble of young actors under the guidance of Jungle Theater’s artistic director, Sarah Rasmussen, *The Wolves* finds the milestones of youth passed, not in the glory of cheering crowds, but in the unruly comradery of teammates.

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APRIL 12



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SMALL TOWN STORY
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BIKES

30 DAYS OF BIKING: KICKOFF PARTY

SURLY BREWING COMPANY

Since 2010, cyclists from all over the world have pledged their allegiance to their bikes every April for 30 Days of Biking. What started as a cool way for riders to connect and share their adventures has turned into a global movement, with people from as far-flung locales as Ukraine, Italy, and Fargo getting in on the action. While the basic premise remains simple—go out and bike every day in the month of April—the event has grown into a fundraising effort, this year benefitting World Bicycle Relief. On Saturday, the gang from Minneapolis-St. Paul Joyful Riders will kick things off at Surly with a special party.

Attendees will each get a free beer and a 2018 spokescard. To make the pledge, or keep the party going, check Facebook or 30daysofbiking.com for other planned rides and events. This is an easy way to commit to getting back outside and active after a long, shitty winter. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. 520 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 763-535-3330. —PATRICK STRAIT



JESSE LINDHORST



Weird Al teams up with Emo Philips at Pantages.

COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

The show is in previews March 28-29, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$32-\$37. 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-7063.

Through April 29 —BRAD RICHASON

ART/GALLERY

7 WARRIOR WOMEN

GAMUT GALLERY

There are layers of collaboration in “7 Warrior Women,” Kristi Abbott’s latest collection of work. For the project, the Australian-born collage artist sought out six models, each representing a different continent. She brought in local mural creator Yuya Negishi to create backdrops for each image, and tattoo artist Sarah Epperson painted designs onto some of the models. From there, Abbott merged photography with maps, textures, and other elements to create the final works, which are fiercely feminine and global. See them for yourself at the opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 31. There will also be an artists’ talk at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 14. Free; \$5 opening reception. 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327.

Through April 20 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TUESDAY 3.3

COMEDY

WEIRD AL YANKOVIC

PANTAGES THEATRE

After more than 30 years making records, Weird Al Yankovic has never been more popular. His last studio album, 2014’s *Mandatory Fun*, was his highest-charting release, reaching number one on Billboard. What’s even more extraordinary is that he did this at a time when any schmuck can turn up on YouTube with a funny version of a hit song. While he doesn’t necessarily need permission to parody

songs, he seeks permission because, well, he’s a nice guy, and he doesn’t want to hurt anyone’s feelings. “It’s pretty rare when an artist will turn me down,” Al explains. “‘You’re Pitiful’ was originally going to be the lead single for *Straight Outta Lynwood*.... Then we get a call from [James Blunt’s label] saying, ‘We will not allow you to release this parody.’” (Blunt, for the record, was fine with it.) Yankovic’s longtime friend Emo Philips is also on the bill. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. \$59.50-\$283. 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. **Also Wednesday —P.F. WILSON**

DANCE/TALK

THE BLACK DANCING BODY AS A MEASURE OF CULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
THEATRE ARTS & DANCE

Dancer, choreographer, and scholar Brenda Dixon Gottschild visits the University of Minnesota this Tuesday for a talk about race, politics, and performance. A professor emerita at Temple University, Gottschild is also a former consultant for *Dance Magazine*, and the author of many books on the historical contexts of black bodies on stage. Her award-winning writings include *The Black Dancing Body—A Geography from Coon to Cool* and *Waltzing in the Dark: African American Vaudeville and Race Politics in the Swing Era*. She also frequently performs internationally as a soloist and with her husband, choreographer/dancer Hellmut Gottschild. Just as her writing is like dance, her movement is critically engaged. Come find out more about her process and her wisdom at this talk. 4:30 p.m. Free. 330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-625-4001. **—SHEILA REGAN**

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allen RUPPERSBERG Intellectual Property 1968-2018

WALKER

Allen Ruppersberg, *The Novel That Writes Itself*, 2014 (detail)
Walker Art Center Library, Rosemary Furtak Collection
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Allen Ruppersberg: Intellectual Property 1968-2018 is organized by the Walker Art Center. Lead support for the exhibition is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.



Major support is provided by the Prospect Creek Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is generously provided by Carlo Bronzini Vender, Jill and Peter Kraus, Margo Leavin, and Maja Oeri.

Support for the exhibition catalogue is provided by Greene Naftali, Marc Selwyn Fine Art, and a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of Walker Art Center publications.

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Now on View

ISLE OF DOGS

Wes Anderson goes political with an insane cast ensemble



Bryan Cranston provides the voice of Chief.

COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

BY TONY LIBERA

When Wes Anderson first took on stop-motion puppet animation, it felt like a bit of a curveball. This is a director whose career has been predicated on the weird beats of very personal, very human dynamics. And yet somehow 2009's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* turned out to be not only a deep study of humanity, but one of Anderson's best movies.

So there's been no small amount of hype surrounding his latest stop-motion feature, *Isle of Dogs*. While it doesn't quite reach the level of *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, it's a fantastic movie in its own right.

First off, this is front-to-back, trademark Anderson. If you're not into his standard idiosyncrasies, *Isle of Dogs* is definitely not for you. But for Anderson fans (Fanderons, as they should henceforth be called), the director's ninth feature is another twee treat.

Isle of Dogs takes place 20 years in the future, when a dog flu epidemic overtakes the fictional Japanese city of Megasaki. After briefly debating solutions, Mayor Kobayashi (Kunichi Nomura, co-credited

on story) decrees all canines exiled to Trash Island, starting with Spots Kobayashi (Liev Schreiber), guard dog of the mayor's nephew Atari (Koyu Rankin).

Atari isn't having it. The young boy flies to Trash Island in search of Spots, but a crash landing near the coast side-tracks him. Atari meets a pack of friendly pooches who vote—because dogs vote in Wes Anderson movies—to help him in his quest. The only holdout is Chief (Bryan Cranston), a stray wary of humankind.

What initially feels like a simple story becomes increasingly complex, as Chief comes to terms with his past and nefarious dealings slowly come to light. Anderson's work often feels like it takes place within its own isolated bubble, but *Isle of Dogs* sets itself apart as the first of his films that feels overtly political. In times like these, it's hard not to be. And though Anderson's intent is unmistakable, he executes with a sly touch.

Of course, the director is only part of this equation. It's his insane ensemble cast that really brings things to life. Cranston stands out as the lead, but every cast member—recent Oscar winner Frances McDormand, Edward Norton, Scarlett

ISLE OF DOGS

directed by Wes Anderson
Uptown Theatre, now showing

Johansson, Bill Murray, Harvey Keitel, Jeff Goldblum, Yoko Ono, and many more big hitters—pulls their weight.

Add some eye-catching, hyper-detailed visuals and an immersive score by Alexandre Desplat, and *Isle of Dogs* ends up being the kind of movie that really does transport you to another world.

There has been some criticism of Anderson's Japanese backdrop, though much of this came before said critics actually saw the movie. If you ascribe to the belief system that white Americans should never touch non-white culture, then you're definitely going to have issues on principle alone. For what it's worth, Anderson seems to have put a lot of thought into his approach, and his end product is both respectful and cinematically inventive.

Every filmmaker working today owes something to Akira Kurosawa—and it's clear that Anderson's exploration of Japanese culture is a gracious homage. One imagines the late director proud.

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LUNA GALE

What's best for a baby in a broken system?



DAN NORMAN

BY JAY GABLER

Caroline isn't a religious woman, but a key decision she makes in *Luna Gale* recalls a line from John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt*. "When you take a step to address wrongdoing," says Sister Aloysius in that play, "you are taking a step away from God, but in his service."

Rebecca Gilman's 2014 drama has a very different premise than Shanley's 2004 classic, but it draws its considerable energy from a similar tension. *Luna Gale*, like *Doubt*, centers on a woman who's experienced in navigating the treacherous shores of a patriarchal bureaucracy. In both cases, the character has always worked within that bureaucracy, until she finally reaches a breaking point and decides to go rogue.

Run, don't walk, to the Southern to catch Underdog Theatre's *Luna Gale* before it closes this weekend. Director H. Adam Harris snaps this show taut from its opening scene and holds that tension straight through to the end. You may be amazed to check your watch and see that over two hours have gone by since you first met a young couple struggling to keep their child.

Karlie (Briana Patnode) and Peter (Kory LaQuess Pullam) have been smoking meth, neglecting their infant daughter Luna until she needs to be hospitalized for dehydration. Karlie's mother, Cindy (Megan Kelly Hubbell), a medical professional, is ready to step in and take custody of Luna.

Facilitating that adoption seems like a no-brainer to Cliff (James Rodríguez), who oversees the local social work office. Luna's caseworker Caroline (Jodi Kellogg),

LUNA GALE

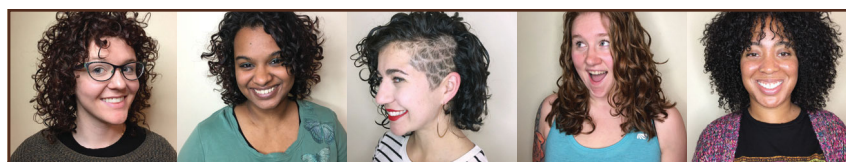
Southern Theater
1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis
612-326-1811; through April 1

though, isn't so sure. She sees promise in the damaged but loving young couple, and becomes skeptical of Cindy's evangelical intentions. Can Caroline convince her boss to give Luna's parents another chance?

Gilman neither demonizes Cindy and Cliff nor excuses the faults of Karlie, Peter, and Caroline. These are all well-meaning but imperfect people working within a cripplingly under-resourced system.

The script demands strongly defined but nuanced performances, and Harris has a superb ensemble cast with combustible chemistry. Patnode and Pullam are at once obnoxious and endearing, and the production's even tone doesn't blink when Hubbell declares her sincere faith. The show earns real—and intentionally uncomfortable—laughs when Cindy's pastor (Dario Tangelson) enters the picture, and Imani Vaughn-Jones has a poignant supporting role as one of Caroline's previous clients.

This *Luna Gale*, though, belongs to the extraordinary Kellogg in one of the most touching performances recently seen on any local stage. Leazah Behrens' set is full of compelling touches, but the key detail might be a HILLARY campaign sticker behind Caroline's desk. Like Clinton, Caroline is a woman who's struggled with a broken system, only to see her failures amplified and her successes ignored. *Luna Gale* will leave you saying, "I'm with her."



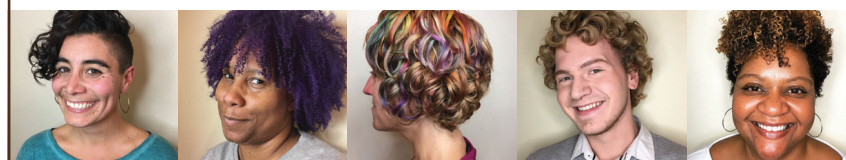
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STREET *Style*

ARTFULLY DONE “In the Field” at Weisman Art Museum on March 21. **BY AMY GEE**



LEXI HERMAN

22, EDUCATION ASSISTANT AT WEISMAN ART MUSEUM, ARTIST

What are you wearing?

Wåven shirt, pants from Unique Thrift, Nike sneakers, Norse Project socks, Sophie Monet earrings from MIA gift shop.

Describe your style:

Clergy casual working in a studio.

Spring trends you're excited for:

Color blocking socks and sandals, crop tops, jumpsuits, '90s sunglasses.

One thing in your closet

that you can't live without:
My long jean jacket from Bodega Thirteen.



STARLIGHT JONES

21, PRODUCER

What are you wearing?

Completely thrifted outfit.

Describe your style:

Myself. Flamboyant.

Current style crush:

Prince. He makes me feel like I gotta be sexy.

One thing in your closet

that you can't live without:
A red, white, and blue furry jacket from Guess.



SYLVIA JENNINGS

21, RADIO K MARKETING DIRECTOR

What are you wearing?

Suede jumper and lace turtleneck from Free People.

Describe your style:

Corpse cowboy business goth.

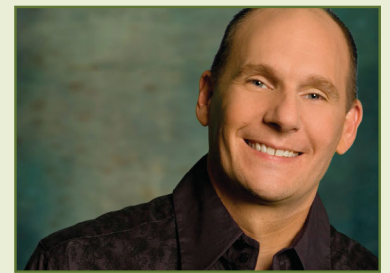
Current style inspiration:

I'm inspired by '90s grunge but making it less gaudy.

One thing in your closet

that you can't live without:
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Annie Mack sings the blues—and with good reason. She was raised in north Minneapolis, in what she calls “slum housing,” and when she was only 10 years old her abusive single mom shot Mack’s older sister.

“It was a very evil thing. It was a very desperate thing,” says the 39-year-old. She remembers the harshness of the police who arrived on the scene, the trail of blood on the floor, her fear of leaving her bedroom.

Mack’s sister, then 18, survived, recuperated, and graduated on time with her high school class. Mack’s mother, Delia, was sentenced to a year in the Minnesota Correc-

tional Facility in Shakopee. Mack was sent to St. Joseph’s

Home for Children, where she experienced an unexpected gratitude for her childhood, however imperfect it was. “I was fed and I was clothed and our house was clean,” she says. “I was not coming from the same situation as these kids, who really had to fend for themselves. It was very eye-opening.”

Mack was placed in foster care until her mother was released from prison; then the two moved back in together. Mack’s subsequent school years were a blur. “I was a very broken individual,” she says. When she graduated from high school, she moved to Rochester to attend the (now defunct) Minnesota Bible College, where she studied theology, a surprising choice for someone who grew up in what she describes as a “godless home.”

“The people that made the best impression, who showed me what love was, were Christians,” she explains. Her classmates also came from “hardcore situations” and helped her see that her circumstances didn’t define her. She also learned that “being a Christian doesn’t mean you just put up with shit over and over. You can love someone that’s abused you, you can want the best for them, but it’s okay to have boundaries.”

Mack kept her distance from Delia and gave birth to a daughter in 2001. Five years later, Delia died at age 57 from complications of kidney disease. “It was really devastating,” Mack says. “There was so much that needed to be made right but I wasn’t ready.”

Mack processed the loss, in part, through writing. She didn’t realize she was writing songs at first, but that’s what they became. Musically, she was drawn to the blues, a good fit for her powerhouse pipes. “It was as truthful as gospel, but it was a little bit



DAWN SANBORN PHOTOGRAPHY

BLUES SALVATION

Annie Mack overcomes a traumatic childhood to *Tell It Like It Is*

BY ERICA RIVERA

grittier. That’s what spoke to me. I felt like I was one raw, walking emotion,” she says.

It didn’t occur to her to record until 2012, when she met musician Paul O’Sullivan. Mack and O’Sullivan used the same backing band members, and scheduling conflicts became more frequent. One night, O’Sullivan showed up at one of Mack’s gigs to size up his competition. They started shit-talking to the tune of, “So you’re the reason I can’t get work in this town.” O’Sullivan bought Mack a “cheap-ass beer” (which she refused to drink) and asked for her number. She obliged, but told him she wouldn’t chase. He called when he said he would and they had their first date on Valentine’s Day. The

couple married the following year and now have two children, ages 3 and 18 months.

With O’Sullivan’s guidance, Mack released her first album, *Baptized in the Blues*, in 2013. “He really pushed me on an artistic level,” she says. “I don’t have music theory. I don’t have the background. I just had ideas in my head and I had the lyrics.” The album was dedicated to Delia. “One of the biggest reasons for pursuing music was to try and resolve my broken relationship with my mother,” Mack says. “When I wrote my first album it was with the intention to give us both a voice.”

But that album also features a song, “Saving Grace,” about Mack’s now 16-year-old

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 8pm : the roe family singers
 10pm : doug otto and friends

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daughter, sprung from the realization that the cycle of abuse had ended. "Our situation is everything I would want with a relationship with my daughter," she says. "I don't physically abuse my daughter. I don't break her spirit. I get to own my shit and I get to have a relationship. She wants to hang out with me. She wants to do my makeup. It's something that I don't take for granted."

Mack's new EP, *Tell It Like It Is*, is both inspirational and anthemic, tackling themes of tough love, overcoming addiction, and becoming older and wiser. While faith remains foundational in her life, she isn't blatantly religious in her music. "My thing is to love on people where they're at," she says.

Mack has also accepted that she's no longer in the sleeping-in-the-van-while-on-tour stage of life. "I'm too old for that shit," she says. "I'm not going to get my hands bloody trying to beat down the doors." Instead, she's focused on Operation Minnesota Love 2018: as many gigs as she can handle, no further than a five-hour drive so she can be home at night with her family.

While Mack doesn't excuse the abuse Delia inflicted, with time her perspective has shifted. She recognizes that Delia was battling multiple oppressions as a black, low-income single mom. She may have had depression, too, and didn't have the resources or support readily available to deal with it. "She wasn't a monster, just a woman trying to make it and not having the tools to cope all the time," she says.

Mack believes Delia would be proud of her burgeoning singing career, which has included opening for the likes of Dessa and Robert Cray, as well as appearances at a slew of musical festivals nationwide.

But ultimately, the music is not about Mack or even her mother; it's about letting others know they're not alone and that they can overcome their challenges.

"Don't put a limitation on what you're here for," she says. "God loves a good underdog." **EP**

CRITICS' PICKS

SOCCER MOMMY

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL, SATURDAY 3.31
 Twenty-year-old Nashville native Sophie Allison, aka Soccer Mommy, followed a couple years of loose bedroom recordings with her first official album earlier this month. Produced by Gabe Wax (Fleet Foxes, the War on Drugs), *Clean* is a natural progression from those earlier sketches, its 10 introspective, sinuous songs exploring young-adult vulnerability and the downsides of romantic infatuation. With Madeline Kenney. 10 p.m. \$10. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-8949.
 —MICHAEL MADDEN

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): A few years ago, a New Zealander named Bruce Simpson announced plans to build a cruise missile at his home using parts he bought legally from eBay and other online stores. In accordance with current astrological omens, I suggest you initiate a comparable project. For example, you could arrange a do-it-yourself space flight by tying a thousand helium balloons to your lawn chair. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Please don't try lunatic schemes like the helium balloon space flight. Here's the truth: Now is a favorable time to initiate big, bold projects, but not foolish, big, bold projects. The point is to be both visionary and practical.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The Finnish word kalsarikännit means getting drunk at home alone in your underwear and bingeing on guilty pleasures. It's a perfect time for you to do just that. The Fates are whispering, "Chill out. Vegetate. Be ambitionless." APRIL FOOL! I told a half-truth. In fact, now is a perfect time to excuse yourself from trying too hard and doing too much. You can accomplish wonders and marvels by staying home and bingeing on guilty pleasures in your underwear. But there's no need to get drunk.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Actor Gary Bussey is very sure there are no mirrors in heaven. He has other specific ideas about the place, as well. This became a problem when he was filming the movie *Outglay*, in which his character Archie visits heaven. Bussey was so enraged at the director's mistaken rendering of paradise that he got into a fistfight with another actor. I hope you will show an equally feisty fussiness in the coming weeks. Gemini, APRIL FOOL! I lied, sort of. On the one hand, I do hope you'll be forceful as you insist on expressing your high standards. Don't back down! But on the other hand, refrain from pummeling anyone who asks you to compromise.

♊ CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the Scots language still spoken in parts of Scotland, eedle-doddles are people who can't summon initiative when it's crunch time. They are so consumed in trivial or irrelevant concerns that they lose all instinct for being in the right place at the right time. I regret to inform you that you are now at risk of being an eedle-doddle. APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, the truth is just the opposite. I have rarely seen you so well-primed to respond vigorously and bravely to Big Magic Moments. For the foreseeable future, you are King or Queen of Carpe Diem.

♊ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Paul McCartney likes to periodically act like a regular person who's not a famous musician. He goes grocery shopping without bodyguards. He rides on public transportation and strikes up conversations with random strangers. I think you may need to engage in similar behavior yourself. Leo, You've become a bit too enamored with your own beauty and magnificence. You really do need to come down to earth and hang out more with us little people. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The truth is, now is prime time to hone your power and glory, to indulge your urge to shine and dazzle, to be as conspicuously marvelous as you dare to be.

♊ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The coming days will be an excellent time to concoct an alchemical potion that will heal your oldest wounds. For best results, mix and sip a gallon of potion using the following magic ingredients: absinthe, chocolate syrup, cough medicine, dandelion tea, cobra venom, and worm's blood. APRIL FOOL! I mixed a lie in with a truth. It is a fact that now is a fine time to seek remedies for your ancient wounds. But the potion I recommended is bogus. Go on a quest for the real cure.

♊ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I expect you will soon receive a wealth of exotic and expensive gifts. For example, a benefactor may finance your vacation to a gorgeous sacred site or give you the deed to an enchanted waterfall. I won't be surprised if you're blessed with a solid gold bathtub or a year's supply of luxury cupcakes. It's even possible that a sugar daddy or sugar mommie will fork over \$500,000 to rent an auditorium for party in your honor. APRIL FOOL! I distorted the truth. I do suspect you'll get more goodies than usual in the coming weeks, but they're likely to come in the form of love and appreciation, not flashy material goods. (For best results, don't just wait around for the goodies to stream in; ask for them!)

♊ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There's a narrow waterway between Asia and Europe. In the fifth century B.C., Persian King Xerxes had two bridges built across it so he could invade Greece with his army. But a great storm swept through and smashed his handiwork. Xerxes was royally peeved. He ordered his men to whip the uncooperative sea and brand it with hot irons, all the while shouting curses at it, like "You are a turbid and briny river." I recommend that you do something similar, Scorpio. Has Nature done anything to inconvenience you? Show it who's the Supreme Boss! APRIL FOOL! I lied. The truth is, now is an excellent time for you to become more attuned and in love with a Higher Power, however you define that. What's greater than you and bigger than your life and wilder than you can imagine? Refine your practice of the art of surrender.

♊ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Fifteenth-century Italian painter Filippo Lippi was such a lustful womanizer that he sometimes found it tough to focus on making art. At one point, his wealthy and politically powerful patron Cosimo de' Medici, frustrated by his extracurricular activities, imprisoned him in his studio to ensure he wouldn't get diverted. Judging from your current astrological omens, Sagittarius, I suspect you need similar constraints. APRIL FOOL! I fibbed a little. I am indeed worried you'll get so caught up in the pursuit of pleasure that you'll neglect your duties. But I won't go so far as to suggest you should be locked up for your own good.

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Now is a favorable time to slap a lawsuit on your mom in an effort to make her pay for the mistakes she made while raising you. You could also post an exposé on social media in which you reveal her shortcomings, or organize a protest rally outside her house with your friends holding signs demanding she apologize for how she messed you up. APRIL FOOL! Everything I just said was ridiculous and false. The truth is, now is a perfect moment to meditate on the gifts and blessings your mother gave you. If she is still alive, express your gratitude to her. If she has passed on, do a ritual to honor and celebrate her.

♊ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian author Alice Walker won a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Color Purple*. She has also published 33 other books and built a large audience. But some of her ideas are not exactly mainstream. For example, she says that one of her favorite authors is David Icke, who asserts that intelligent extraterrestrial reptiles have disguised themselves as humans and taken control of our planet's governments. I bring this to your attention, because I think it's time that you, too, reveal the full extent of how crazy you really are. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. While it's true that now is a favorable time to show more of your unconventional and eccentric sides, I don't advise you to go full-on whacko.

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Warning! Danger! You are at risk of contracting a virulent case of cherophobia! And what exactly is cherophobia? It's a fear of happiness. It's an inclination to dodge and shun joyful experiences because of the suspicion that they will disappoint you or cause bad luck. Please do something to stop this insidious development. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The truth is that you are currently more receptive to positive emotions and delightful events than you've been in a log time. There's less than a 1 percent chance you will fall victim to cherophobia.

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FALLING HAIL
BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across			42	Medicine or law or (if you're like me)	8	than the outside
1	Hitting noise		43	puzzle making, e.g.	9	Adelaide-to-Melbourne dir.
4	Like all angles that are less than 90°		44	Wins or losses	10	Celebration of a civil rights leader held every January
9	Floor wax spreader		45	Instruction to play with the bow	11	Herman Melville's "Typee" sequel
12	"Too bad"		46	"Holy cow!"	12	Church seats
14	Grandmas		47	"Zoinks!"	13	Church seats
15	"I agree as well"		48	Princess in L. Frank Baum books	14	"Yes, yes, yes," to José
16	"I agree as well"		49	Rapper who is third on Forbes wealthiest hip-hop acts for 2017 (behind Jay-Z and Diddy)	15	Nova ____, Canada
17	Cawing bird		50	Jaguar roller	16	Controversial nuclear explosion event
18	With 51-Down, "Hope yer successful!"		51	Family tree	17	Pottery ovens
19	Capsule you can use to escape from a spacecraft		52	Made happy	18	Activist who said "My religion has no geographical limits"
20	Japanese zithers		53	Senorita's "a"	19	Made more interesting
21	"I want another card"		54	Fuel pipeline	20	Designer bag name
22	Last Supper question		55	Knuckle head?	21	More hard to come by
23	Allow first-class passengers to board first, say		56	Grand ____ (wine making phrase)	22	Business legend
24	Bone stabilizers in some casts		57	Students in the workplace	23	Make certain of
25	Kinda crummy, as weather		58	"So ____ heard"	24	Turn on the waterworks
26	Bad way to be caught, when confronted by an angry parent, say		59	Thing tapped at a party	25	Dog's ID
27	Biceps site		60	Head covering	26	"Sign me up!"
28	Strategies		61	House Stark's head, on "Game of Thrones"	27	Liquid's sluggish flow
29	Sport ____ (all-terrain vehicle)		62		28	Achy
30	Art ____ (style)		63		29	Wise guys?
			64		30	Strong urges
			65		31	See 19-Across
			66		32	Business letter opener
					33	This, in Spain
					34	Actress-model Delevingne
					35	Roof overhang
					36	Colored, as grey hair
					37	French sea

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Cock Locked

Is there a male chastity device that doesn't require a penis piercing?



Dan Savage

I'm in a D/s relationship. I'm not submissive around the clock, but my partner owns my cock. We've purchased several male chastity devices, but I can pretty easily get my cock out of them. My partner did some investigating and learned that the only effective devices work with a Prince Albert piercing—a ring through the head of the penis that locks into the device, preventing the sub from pulling his cock out. My partner now wants me to get a PA. I don't want to get my cock pierced and I've said so, but I haven't safe-worded on it. I would very reluctantly do it to please her. My partner made an appointment for a piercing three months from now, on our second anniversary. She told me that we can cancel it if I can find an effective chastity device that doesn't require a piercing. Do you or any of your contacts in the fetish world know of any devices that are inescapable?

PIERCING APPENDAGE UNNECESSARILY
SCARES EAGER SUB

"I've never come across a standard male chastity device I couldn't pull out of," said Ruffled Sheets, "so PAUSES's partner has researched regular chastity devices well."

Sheets is an IT consultant who lives in the United Kingdom with his partner of 15 years. Male chastity devices have fascinated him for more than two decades and, as of this writing, he owns 37 different kinds of cock cages. His partner frequently keeps his cock locked up for weeks or months at a time—and if there were such a thing as a commercially available male chastity device that was inescapable, Sheets would know about it.

"However, all is not lost," said Sheets. "Piercing is one of two ways to ensure the penis cannot escape. The other is a full chastity belt. Now, full belts aren't without their drawbacks—they are generally more expensive, are harder to conceal under clothes, and take longer to get used to, especially at night. But they are secure. I have three custom-fitted chastity belts and, once properly fitted, they're inescapable." Sheets' chastity belts were made for him by Behind Barz (behindbarz.co.uk) and Fancy Steel (fancysteel.com.au).

But if most commercially available male chastity devices aren't inescapable, what's the point?

"You can only partially escape," said Sheets. "It's possible to pull out the penis but not remove the device," which is anchored around the balls and base of the shaft. "And a partially removed device is awkward and uncomfortable."

For many male subs and their Doms, the symbolism of a male chastity device is what matters most. And as with other forms of sex play and most aspects of healthy relationships, the honor system makes it work.

"As in a negotiated relationship, you can cheat," said Sheets. "But why cheat? They're easy to keep on if you're genuinely interested in submitting."

There are two other things Sheets wanted you to be aware of as you begin to explore male chastity, PAUSES.

"Lots of men are shy about being submissive," said Sheets, "so they'll say things like, 'I'm normally dominant in real life,' like PAUSES opened his letter by saying he isn't submissive 'around the clock.' I just wanted to make sure he understood that chastity is a long-term game. For most of us in devices, it's a 24/7 affair." If you said you weren't submissive around the clock because you didn't want to admit that you are, in fact, submissive around the clock, PAUSES, chastity play won't be a problem. But if you meant it—if you're not capable of remaining in a submissive headspace for long—you'll need to ask your partner, before the padlock clicks shut, just how long she intends to keep your cock locked up.

"Being locked also has another side effect that you wouldn't perhaps anticipate," Sheets added. "Whenever you become turned on, you feel your cage or belt against your penis. It can be anything from a gentle reminder to a vise-like grip, depending on your arousal level. And whenever this happens, your mind automatically turns to your key holder, even if they're not around."

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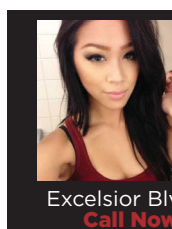
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